

The background of the cover is a photograph of a natural landscape. In the foreground, a rocky shoreline is covered with small, reddish-brown stones and some green vegetation, including a cluster of bright red flowers. The middle ground shows a calm body of water reflecting the sky and the surrounding forest. The background is a dense line of green trees under a clear sky.

FISCAL YEAR 2003

Annual Report

Land Acquisition &
Protection Program

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Land Acquisition and Protection Program
Fiscal Year 2003
Annual Report

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THE CONSERVATION TRUST

For general information regarding the DCR Land Acquisition and Protection Program, please call (617) 626-1315 or log onto our web site at <http://www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/landacq/index.htm>



View of the Pocumtuck Range
JENNIFER HOWARD

*Front Cover: Smiarowski Shoreline
on the Connecticut River*

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER:

Dear Friends:



The Kaufhold Tract

TERRY BLUNT

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) once again, celebrated another exceptional year for land acquisition and protection. The DEM Land Acquisition and Protection Program for Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002 throughout June 30, 2003) added 34 properties and nearly 2,385 acres to the land held and managed by the Department on behalf of the Commonwealth. DEM teamed up with partners from federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations as well as with private donors. Using the Land Acquisition and Protection Strategic Plan as a guide, a vast array of natural and cultural resources found throughout the Commonwealth were identified, evaluated, acquired and are now protected.

This report includes a complete list of the diverse properties acquired in FY2003 and offers specifics on several of the properties. I am delighted to see that the program was able to reach all corners of our state and includes areas that are rich in habitat and biodiversity.

As of July 1, 2003, DEM joined with the Massachusetts Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) creating a unified park system that contains over 678,000 acres. The Department of Conservation and Recreation, as the new agency, will have at its disposal, the land acquisition and protection professionals from the two agencies and will continue to pursue acquisition and protection measures under an updated Land Acquisition and Protection Strategic Plan. I am honored to be at the helm of this new endeavor and to assist in carrying on the good work of keeping our open space free from inappropriate development and protecting important environmental, forested and park lands for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Very truly yours,

Katherine F. Abbott
Commissioner

Since the first Massachusetts state park was purchased in 1898, the state has acquired additional lands to enlarge, enhance, and protect the properties and facilities the Department now owns and manages. DEM's properties range from Cape Cod and the Islands to the Berkshires, and include ocean beaches, freshwater lakes and ponds, campgrounds, skating rinks and swimming pools, expansive forests and woodlands, mansions and gardens, open fields and meadows, wetlands, floodplain forests, farms, and ridgetops.

LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Massachusetts is favored with an abundant variety of vivid landscapes and habitats. Forests and marshes, farms and coastline, ridgelines and meadows, rivers and lakes, all intertwine and stretch from the state's lengthy coastline to the Connecticut River Valley to the Berkshire Highlands. Unfortunately, much of this rich legacy is increasingly threatened by accelerating patterns of uncontrolled development. Unmanaged development poses a threat to our remaining unfragmented open space. Unplanned development threatens the integrity of the state's unique eco-regions, the long-term viability of rare species, and the historic and aesthetic New England character of communities. One of the methods by which DEM works to address the complex challenge of growth is the direct acquisition of land and property interests to protect these special values and unique landscapes.



Giknis Property river frontage

TERRY BLUNT

Natural resource protection and outdoor recreation are the primary purposes for which DEM acquires land. Presently, the top priorities, as listed below, include seven resource protection focus areas, three recreational themes, and the enhancement of the existing DEM forests and parks.

Resource Protection

Primary Focus Areas:

- Greenways

Representative Natural Communities

- Large Unfragmented Areas

- Coastal Resources and Access

Secondary Focus Areas

- Water Resource Protection

- Scenic Landscapes

Historic Landscapes & Archaeological Resources

Recreation

- Bikeways

- Freshwater-Based Recreation

- Camping

Management/Enhancement

- Critical Adjacent Lands

- Universal Access

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2003 PROJECTS*

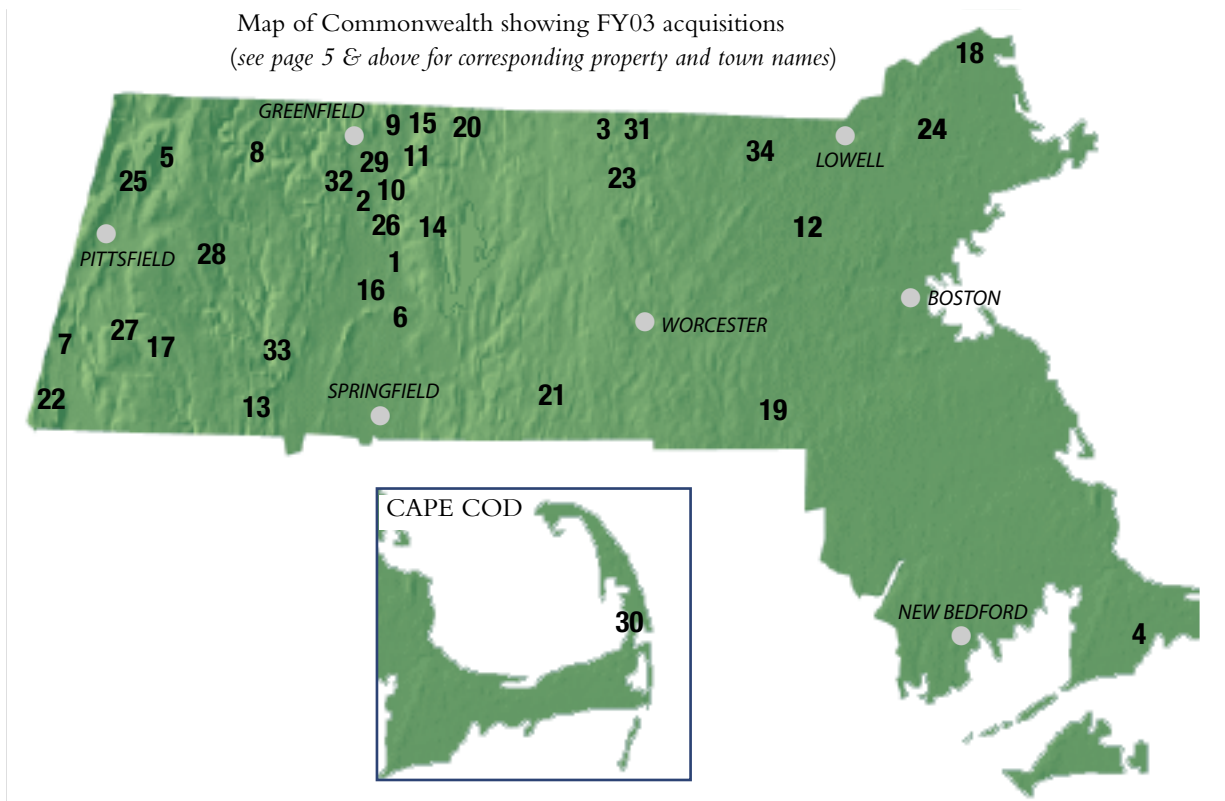
The following projects were completed in Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003). With the help of our partners, nearly 2385 acres of land were acquired or protected. Most properties were acquired outright, through “fee acquisition.” The remaining projects were protected through conservation restrictions (which essentially remove the right to develop a property).

PROJECT/PROPERTY	TOWN	SIGNIFICANCE	ACREAGE
1 Bemben	Hadley	Limits development on the Holyoke Range	25.0
2 Billings	Deerfield	Part of the Pocumtuck Ridge protection effort	32.76
3 Bingham	Ashburnham	Protects the west side of Mt. Watatic	76.6
4 Bufflehead Bay	Mashpee	Protects property along Abigail Brook	35.2
5 Cheshire Rod & Gun Club	Cheshire	Links Visitor Center to summit of Mt. Greylock	79.0
6 Dept. of Defense	Granby	Protects sand plain habitat at the base of Mt. Holyoke	100.0
7 Egremont Land Trust	Egremont	Prevents development at Jug End SR	16.4
8 Franklin Land Trust	Hawley	Protects headwaters of Albee Brook and critical habitat	63.0
9 French	Gill	Protects French King Gorge greenway	99.0
10 Giebel	Deerfield	Long-term effort to protect the Pocumtuck Ridge	70.0
11 Giknis	Gill	Preserves the area around French King Gorge	40.6
12 Goose Pond	Concord	Adds significantly to historic Walden Pond	26.4
13 Hurst	Granville	Protects significant frontage on the Hubbard River	48.1
14 Janowitz	Shutesbury	Added protection for Ames Pond and Lake Wyola	135.72
15 Kaufhold	Gill	Secures a large block of land at French King Gorge	108.0
16 Kucharski	Hadley	Protects floodplain forest on the Connecticut River	21.0
17 Milsner	Monterey	Provides greater protection for the Appalachian Trail	50.0
18 Mulcahy	Salisbury	Opens up ocean views and restored dunes	0.62
19 Morse	Bellingham	Protects significant stretch of the SNETT1	0.23
20 Norcross Wildlife Foundation	Warwick	Abuts property	92.0
21 Warwick State Forest Opacum Land Trust	Sturbridge	Gift of a CR on land protecting critical rare habitat	255.8
22 Peteroy	Mt. Washington	Gift of land along Bash Bish Brook	16.675
23 Robar	Westminster	Protects Crow Hill and wetland habitat	57.9
24 Sawyer-Richardson	Boxford	Protects the core of the Bald Hill conservation area	135.0

PROJECT/PROPERTY	TOWN	SIGNIFICANCE	ACREAGE
25 Shirley	Lanesborough	Multi-year effort to protect unique limestone cave area	70.39
26 Smiarowski	Sunderland	Protects significant frontage on the Connecticut River	20.0
27 Smith	Monterey	Gift of land abutting Beartown State Forest	9.88
28 Sternagle	Middlefield	Improves access for Middlefield State Forest	25.0
29 Tabak	Deerfield	Long-term effort to protect the Pocumtuck Ridge	58.0
30 Town of Eastham	Eastham	Gift provides buffer along the Cape Cod Rail Trail	18.0
31 Truitt	Ashburnham	Further protects Little Watatic Mountain	14.95
32 Valley Land Fund	Deerfield	Long-term effort to protect the Pocumtuck Ridge	19.07
33 War Memorial	Montague	Key parcel for access to Great Falls Discovery Center	0.58
34 Webber	Groton	Protects scenic landscape near Groton's town center	552.53

During FY 2003, DEM received a 1/2 undivided fee interest in 2414 acres of land that the Department of Fish and Game pre- acquired as part of the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve initiative, which it now co-holds with the Department of Fish and Game.

*Please note that the following projects were completed by the Department of Environmental Management and do not reflect any projects completed by the former Metropolitan District Commission, now both merged as DCR



DEM LAND FY03 ACQUISITION STAFF

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Habitat and Biodiversity

Massachusetts is home to an abundant diversity of species. Diverse landscapes provide habitat to this vast array of species, many of which are threatened or endangered. The following properties exemplify our efforts to provide protection to these vital ecosystems.



*View of the Kucharski Tract
from the Connecticut River*

TERRY BLUNT

FRENCH PROPERTY, GILL

This conservation restriction on 99 acres of woods and wetlands in Gill was donated by Richard French and Emily Samuels as an addition to the larger effort to protect and buffer the French King Gorge environment. The site consists of a healthy transition forest with multiple seeps and vernal pools. The CR will maintain the environmental integrity of the larger woodland habitat and adds significant protection against further forest fragmentation by inappropriate development. The species diversity of the French King Gorge area is well documented, ranging from riverine habitats along the Connecticut River to hot dry ledge outcroppings

HAWKS PROPERTY, HAWLEY

Located in the northern Berkshire ecoregion, the 63 acre Hawks property is identified as Core Habitat in the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program BioMap and contains the headwaters for Albee Brook which flows into the Deerfield River. The property provides habitat for rare salamanders and countless birds including the pileated woodpecker, wood pee wee, hermit thrush, and ruby crowned kinglet.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROPERTY, GRANBY

For many years, this 99 acre parcel contained a communications tower related to Westover Air Force base. The entire area remained as an expanse of little bluestem and early successional species. It includes several rarities, including the Northern Blazing Star. Ingraham Brook bisects a portion of the site, containing beaver and associated wading birds and waterfowl. As an adjunct to the Mt. Holyoke State Park, the Granby sand plain near the foot of the mountain lies in stark contrast to the heavily wooded uplands. The property was a transfer of surplus Federal land under the Federal Lands to Parks Program under the aegis of the National Park Service and U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO).

Greenways and Trails

Greenways and trails have become increasingly popular across the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, with the increasing rate of development, greenways and trails have become threatened by fragmentation. DCR and its partners have identified, through Commonwealth Connections: A Greenway Vision for Massachusetts, several greenway and trail initiatives which are of statewide significance. Two of the initiatives that DEM is focusing on include the efforts to protect the Pocumtuck Range and provide an additional buffer for the protection of the viewshed from the Appalachian Trail.

BILLINGS, VALLEY LAND FUND, GEIBEL AND TABAK PROPERTIES, DEERFIELD

Over the last several years DEM has been working to protect key sections of the Pocumtuck Range in Deerfield, a target landscape within the Connecticut Valley Focus Area. The Pocumtuck Range is a significant landform in the Connecticut River Valley and is a prominent feature in the region. The Ridge has talus slopes and several scenic outlooks which provide long expansive views of the valley. There is an informal hiking trail that runs for about 8 miles along the ridgetop from Mt Sugarloaf State Reservation up to northern Deerfield. The range also supports a diversity of plant species, some of which are rare and endangered. The overall goals of this ongoing effort are to conserve the Pocumtuck Range for its scenic, natural and recreational values, and to create a ridgetop greenway that links a number of protected properties from Mt. Sugarloaf in the south to the Great Falls Discovery center in the north. Protection of the Pocumtuck Range greenway was identified as a priority in Commonwealth Connections and has been sited as a priority for protection in Deerfield's open space plan. DEM has been working in partnership with the Valley Land Fund, the Deerfield Land Trust, and the New England Forestry Foundation to secure priority parcels within this landscape. In Fiscal year 2003 DEM made significant progress in this endeavor by acquiring the Billings, Valley Land Fund, Giebel and Tabak tracts.

The Billings and Valley Land Fund properties are an integral part of the growing corridor of protected lands along the Range. The Billings property includes a low-lying 23-acre parcel that straddles Steam Mill Road, and 10-acre parcel on the easterly side of the road that extends to the top of the mountain



Janowitz Tract, Shutesbury

TERRY BLUNT

and encompasses the ridge and trail. DEM worked in partnership with the Deerfield Land Trust to acquire this property. The 19-acre Valley Land Fund property is adjacent to Billings and also encompasses the ridgetop. Valley Land Fund pre-acquired this property from a private individual on behalf of DEM and then held it until the Department was able to acquire the property. Working in partnership with VLF enabled us to meet the landowner's timeframe and to carry out the work needed to complete the transaction.

Acquisition of the Billings and VLF properties links together existing and recently acquired protected lands along the ridge, securing an additional 700+/- linear feet of the Pocumtuck Ridge trail, and preventing further development along this unmaintained section of Steam Mill Road. Both properties are wooded and support a mix of species such as birch, oak, maple, and hemlock at the higher elevations. The VLF parcel is less steep at the higher elevations than some of the surrounding properties and in conjunction with the low-lying Billings property could accommodate an access trail up to the ridge.

The Geibel and Tabak tracts comprise a total of 128 acres placed under permanent conservation restrictions that allow for some forest management under a Stewardship Plan. These parcels lie on the easterly side of the Pocumtuck Ridge as it slopes down to the Connecticut River floodplain. This easterly aspect has deeper soils and more wetland habitats when compared to the Billings and Valley Land Fund tracts, thus complementing the spectrum of diversity found on the ridge which runs from hot, dry outcroppings to moist, cooler woodland.



Milsner Property
JENNIFER HOWARD

MILSNER PROPERTY, MONTEREY

Located adjacent to Beartown State Forest and the Appalachian Trail (AT), acquisition of the 50-acre Milsner property provides additional protection to the eastern portion of the 10,000-acre state forest, and helps preserve the scenic views and the remote experience of hikers using this popular long distance trail. The property contains varied habitat, including upland at the back of the lot, and a significant portion of a two-mile long wetland which bisects the property. Soils are damp and limit standard septic systems, making this property unsuitable for development. Conservation of this property expands the visual and physical buffer to the AT, adds to the protected portion of the Beartown Mountain ecosystem, and prevents inappropriate development of the eastern access to the 10,000-acre Beartown Forest.

Stretching State Dollars

In these times of fiscal uncertainty, the Department has been successful in its considerable effort to stretch our limited state dollars and leverage additional funding by partnering with various federal, state, and nonprofit entities. In fact, during FY03 the Department leveraged just over \$7,000,000 from our nonprofit, municipal and federal partners

BUFFLEHEAD BAY NOMINEE TRUST PROPERTY, MASHPEE

DEM leveraged significant federal dollars to fund the acquisition of the 35.2 acre Bufflehead Bay Nominee Trust property. A \$660,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) covered the cost of the acquisition. The property sits within the boundaries of three state and federal environmental jurisdictions: the Department of Conservation and Recreation Waquoit Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve watershed boundary, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge boundary. This parcel was one of the largest privately owned undeveloped pieces left in the Waquoit Bay watershed and the largest so near the bay. It is particularly important because it is surrounded by and splits up nearly 280 acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife land.



Town of Eastham Property

CHRISTINE BERRY

GIKNIS PROPERTY, GILL

The protection of the 40 acre Giknis property provides more than 3500 feet or road frontage along Route 2 in Gill to assure an uncluttered wooded approach to the scenic French King Gorge, one of the Department's Connecticut Valley priority target areas. Funds for the acquisition came primarily from a \$200,000 ISTEA grant as part of a Scenic Roads and River Initiative, with an additional contribution of \$10,000 from the Nature Conservancy and a partial bargain sale on the part of the owners. The Department's net cost was slightly over \$10,000 for a property valued at \$236,000.

ROBAR PROPERTY, WESTMINSTER

DEM land acquisition dollars must be stretched Commonwealth-wide for land protection. It is fortunate that important lands abutting Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and Leominster State Park can be purchased by the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. This Fund was established under an agreement with DEM and Wachusett Mountain Associates, the lease holders who run the ski area at the mountain. A percentage of the gross annual revenue goes into the fund for DEM land acquisitions. The fund has figured prominently in several projects; most recently, the top of Crow Hill was purchased using these funds. The Robar property adds 55 acres of sloped upland forests and wetlands off of East Road in Westminster to the corridor between Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and Leominster State Forest. It will protect views along the Mid-State Trail and provide a protected wildlife corridor along the wetlands, streams and ponds that link these two popular DEM parks.

Water Resource Protection

The Department of Conservation and Recreation plays an important role in working to protect the water resources of the Commonwealth. During FY03, DEM acquired several properties outright that serve as significant additions to our state forest and parks as well as provide watershed and water supply protection.

HURST PROPERTY, GRANVILLE AND TOLLAND

This 48 - acre parcel protects nearly 2000 feet of frontage on the Hubbard River. Entirely wooded, the property also provides protection for wildlife habitat, rare species, and opportunities for passive recreation abutting Granville State Forest. Acquisition will buffer the Hubbard River and enhance the surrounding Granville State Forest, acquired in 1920. The property has been identified as Core Unprotected Habitat on the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) BioMap. Mr. and Mrs. Hurst generously agreed to sell the property well below its appraised value.

JANOWITZ PROPERTY, SHUTESBURY

Acquisition of the 123 acre Janowitz property provides significant protection for the watershed of Lake Wyola, which is a popular recreation area in the Connecticut River Valley, and is the headwaters of the Sawmill River, a cold water fishery. Acquisition of this secluded property also provides protection for Ames Pond, a known moose breeding area, and an important waterfowl site.

Partnerships

DEM continues to recognize that our partners, such as land trusts, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, counties, and federal agencies, are essential to the continued success of our program and to many of the land protection efforts across the Commonwealth. In addition to the partnerships mentioned elsewhere in the report, the following partnerships were invaluable in DEM's land protection efforts.



*Hurst Property along
the Hubbard River*
CHRISTINE BERRY

WEBBER PROPERTY, GROTON

The Webber property, known as Angus and Gibbet Hills, are significant regional assets. Geologically, they are part of a swarm of drumlins that are unique in that they are multiple-form, running in tight clusters with relatively high elevations and flat surrounding terrain, providing for remarkable views. From these sculptured hills, one may see Mt. Watatic, Wachusett Mountain, the Boston skyline and the lovely town center of Groton with its classic New England church spires pointing through the tree line. The hills have been open and actively farmed fields for well over 50 years.

These properties could not have been protected without the help of numerous partners including the Town of Groton, Groton Conservation Trust, Lawrence Academy, and private donors. The conservation restriction on these hills will allow the public to walk between the farmed fields, gaining access to the hilltops to enjoy the views, as well as picnicking around the "Castle" and snow sledding down the slopes of Angus.

FY03 PARTNERS

Boxford Trails Association
Boxford Open Land Trust
Deerfield Land Trust
Egremont Land Trust
Essex County Greenbelt Association
Fields Pond Foundation
Franklin Land Trust
Lawrence Academy
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Park Service
The Nature Conservancy
New England Forestry Foundation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Opacum Land Trust
The Trust for Public Lands
Town of Boxford
Town of Eastham
Town of Groton
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Defense
Valley Land Fund

EGREMONT LAND TRUST (STEHMAN) PROPERTY, EGREMONT

The 16-acre Stehman property is one of the last undeveloped privately owned parcels in the Guilder Hills subdivision, located within Jug End State Reservation and Wildlife Management Area. The 1,158-acre Reservation was purchased jointly by DEM (now DCR) and Fisheries and Wildlife (now Fish and Game) in 1994 to conserve a variety of natural and historic resources including habitat for several rare species, and to protect the water quality of Fenton Brook. Jug End lies within the 7,000-acre Karner Brook Area of Critical Environmental Concern and abuts Mt Washington State Forest, the Appalachian Trail Corridor, and land owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. The area has been identified as a highly significant and sensitive natural resource area.

The Stehman property has 150 of road frontage and then broadens and rises steeply to the Mt Washington town line, and is surrounded on three sides by the State Reservation. It includes significant frontage along a stream identified as habitat for northern spring salamander — a species of special concern, and is within the disbursement area of the endangered timber rattlesnake. The upland is a mixed hardwood forest including white and yellow birch, beach, hemlock, oak, striped maple, sugar maple, black cherry and a fair amount of mountain laurel.

The Egremont Land Trust (ELT) pre-acquired the Stehman parcel on behalf of DEM, and then held it until the Department was able to acquire the property. Working in partnership with ELT enabled us to secure the threatened property and meet the landowner's timeframe, while carrying out the work needed to complete the transaction. This acquisition, protects important rare species habitat, and prevents potential negative impacts that development at the higher elevations of this parcel could have on the scenic values and integrity of the larger Jug End landscape.

SAWYER-RICHARDSON PROPERTY, BOXFORD

As part of a broad partnership effort, the Department joined the Town of Boxford, the Essex County Greenbelt Association, the Boxford Trails Association/Boxford Open Land Trust, the Fields Pond Foundation, the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, and the Trust for Public Land to protect a 135-acre property abutting Boxford State Forest.

The organizations collectively raised the \$4.75 million needed to acquire the property, which was in imminent danger of development. The Department contributed \$1 million to the transaction and now holds a conservation restriction on the parcel. Other contributors included the Town of Boxford (\$3.15 million), Essex County Greenbelt Association (\$100,000), the Fields Pond Foundation (\$25,000), BTA/BOLT (\$475,000). The Department and the town will receive a reimbursement of a portion of their contributions from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The parcel lies within the 2,000-acre Bald Hill complex of protected land that includes Boxford State Forest, the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement's J.C. Phillips Sanctuary, the Town of Boxford's Lockwood Forest, and numerous parcels owned by the Essex County Greenbelt Association.

Acquisition of the parcel conserves vital wildlife habitat in the imperiled Ipswich River watershed. The property encompasses approximately 25 vernal pools and shelters up to five threatened or endangered species. Designated an Important Bird Area, the parcel offers cover for many avian species including migratory songbirds, hawks and owls.

Paths on the property link to the Bay Circuit Trail, a 200-mile trail network that circles Boston. In addition to hiking, the property affords other recreational opportunities including skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and nature study.

Gifts/Bargain Sales

Over the years, DEM has been the beneficiary of several generous individuals who have chosen to gift property interests to DEM or sell properties at significant bargain sale prices. Gifts and bargain sales of land or interests in land to DEM qualify for charitable tax deductions. Each of these properties will be incorporated into the state forest and parks system. DEM would like to thank each of these individuals who chose to make these substantial donations to the Commonwealth.

MORSE PROPERTY, BELLINGHAM

The 10.23 acre Morse property closed a critical gap in DEM's Southern New England Trunkline Trail which stretches from Douglas State Forest to Franklin State Forest. Protection of this parcel was critical to the continuity and long term protection of this long distance rail trail. The trail provides an opportunity to accommodate multiple trail uses. Frank Morse generously donated this property outright to DEM.

PETEROY PROPERTY, MT. WASHINGTON

Marcia and Frank Peteroy generously made the decision to gift their 14 acre property to DEM last year. This property is a significant addition to Bash Bish Falls State Park as it provides protection for two endangered species and nearly one-half mile of frontage along Bash Bish Brook. The steep hillsides and open field on this property provide important wildlife habitat. In addition to donating their property to DEM, the Peteroy's also paid for the removal of an old, dilapidated building that was sited on the property.

SMITH PROPERTY, MONTEREY

Surrounded on three sides by Beartown State Forest, the 9.88 acre Smith property is an important addition to Beartown State Forest. With significant frontage on Beartown Mountain Road in Monterey, Richard Smith and

Arthur Smith's donation helps prevent inappropriate development near sensitive wetland habitats. The property has also been identified as Core Habitat in the BioMap by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

THE CONSERVATION TRUST

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is proud of its role as steward of some of the most scenic natural resources in the Commonwealth. The increased cost of land acquisition and competing demands on state resources challenge us as we strive to continue to acquire the many additional properties that need our protection. We welcome you to join us and help us to preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

Your contribution to DCR's Conservation Trust will help DCR attain our goal of acquiring ecologically critical parcels of land and provide recreational opportunities to the public. Donations are also needed for the perpetual care and stewardship of these valuable properties.

The Conservation Trust was established in 1990 by the Massachusetts General Court as a way for citizens to contribute to the recreational and conservation interests of the Commonwealth. Tax-deductible contributions can also be designated for particular parks or programs of the donor's choice.

For more information on how you, too, can be a steward of the Commonwealth's lands through a contribution to the Conservation Trust, contact Sharon Hoey at 617-626-1267.



Pocumtuck Ridge Trail
JENNIFER HOWARD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DCR would like to acknowledge Mary Griffin, DCR's former Chief Counsel, for her significant contribution to the DEM/DCR Land Acquisition and Protection Program. During her five year tenure at DEM and DCR, Mary provided unlimited support for the land protection program and staff, and successfully managed many significant acquisition projects. Mary recently accepted the position of Acting Chief Counsel for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Thank you and good luck, Mary!

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Mitt Romney, *Governor*

Kerry Healy, *Lieutenant Governor*

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Ellen Roy Herzfelder, *Secretary*

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Katherine F. Abbott, *Commissioner*

